

Drawings

1. A drawing amendment to Fig. 6 was presented in Amendment A filed on 02/02/2005.

The reference numeral 19 is added to Fig. 6.

A duplicate replacement sheet is filed herewith.

2. A drawing amendment to Figs. 8-10 is filed herewith.

Numeral 58 is added to Figs. 8 and 10 to an element which is in the disclosure as originally filed.

Numerals 50 and 51 are transposed in Fig. 9.

A lead line is added to numeral 56 in Fig. 9.

Remarks***Specification***

The specification is amended to correct “*adapter tube 48*” to —*adapter tube 19*—.

The specification is amended to add —*string 52* are curved around a bridge 58— and attached to —*arms 49* below a surface of body 53— as shown in the disclosure as originally filed.

No new matter is added.

Drawings

Fig. 6 is amended to add numeral 19 to correspond with the description for Fig. 6.

Figs. 8 and 10 are amended to add numeral 58 to an element which is in the disclosure as originally filed.

Fig. 9 is amended to transpose numerals 50 and 51 to correspond with Figs. 8 and 10, and to add a lead line to numeral 56.

Now new matter is added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Proll.

Proll teaches a musical instrument (see next page) with a string 33 attached to a forked first end 28 of a L-shaped lever 30. First end 28 is **above** a top surface of the instrument

body (not numbered) so that it interferes with the user's fingers during play. Further, the proximity of end 28 to a played portion of string 33 may result in premature string breakage where string 33 meets first end 28.

Claim 9 is amended to recite:

1. **"a bridge (58) on top of said body"**

Proll fails to teach a bridge on top of the instrument body.

2. **"strings tensioned on top of said body and curved around said bridge to a position below an upper surface of said body"**

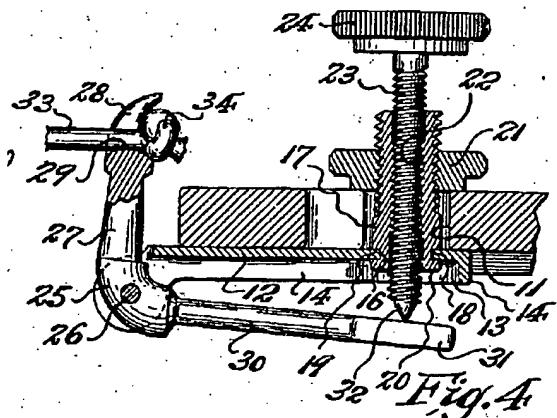
Proll fails to teach strings curved around a bridge to a position below the upper surface of the body.

3. **"ends of said strings are attached to said hinged arms below said upper surface of said body"**

Proll teaches attaching the ends of the strings to hinged arms **above** the upper surface of the body.

Claim 9 thus recites a musical instrument with a combined tuner and pitch changer which does not interfere with the user's fingers during play, and prolongs string life with an anchor point farther away from the played portion of each string.

Claims 9-10 are thus not anticipated by Proll under 35 USC 102(b).



Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all the rejections have been overcome, and therefore requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully,



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Certificate of Faxing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being faxed to 703 872 9306 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

May 8, 2005

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